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NASHVILLE -- The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development today announced that the U.S. Department of Labor has approved a petition for North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for TRW Automotive. This petition covers all workers of the company in Cookeville who were engaged in employment related to the production of Ford Explorer air bags.

The North American Free Trade Agreement is a program administered in Tennessee for the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The program offers assistance to workers whose jobs have been adversely affected by imports from foreign competitors. The certification by the USDOL applies to layoffs which began on February 22, 2001, and will remain in effect until March 13, 2004, when the petition expires.

Under the provisions of the law, NAFTA allows for retraining while workers are still receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits. Two separate 26-week periods of trade benefits may be obtained for workers while enrolled in approved training after regular unemployment insurance benefits have been exhausted. The program also provides allowances for attempting to secure new employment in other areas and relocating to the new place of employment. Specific instructions will be provided to affected workers through their local Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development office.

Claims for assistance will be taken on Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development office at 263 West Spring Street in Cookeville. The Tennessee Department

of Labor & Workforce Development has sent notices to former employees informing them when they are scheduled to report.

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The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities

El Departamento del Trabajo y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares estan disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan